

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A system for duplicate address detection in a
2 communication network, said system comprising:
3 a plurality of communication nodes, a particular one of
4 said communication nodes generating a tentative interface
5 address and transmitting a solicitation message including
6 the tentative interface address; and
7 a proxy node for receiving the solicitation message,
8 said proxy node operable to determine from the solicitation
9 message whether the tentative interface address is allocated
10 to another of said plurality of communication nodes, and
11 further operable to send a response message to said
12 particular communication node if said proxy node determines
13 that the tentative interface address is allocated to another
14 of said plurality of communication nodes, said response
15 message indicating that the tentative interface address is
16 already in use.

1 2. The system of claim 1, wherein the particular
2 communication mode transmits a context activation message to
3 the proxy node at least as early as said transmission of the
4 solicitation message, said context activation message
5 indicative of a request for an activation of a packet data
6 protocol context.

1 3. The system of claim 2, wherein the proxy node,
2 responsive to the context activation message, generates a
3 packet data protocol context associated with the particular
4 communication node.

1 4. The system of claim 2, wherein the packet data
2 protocol context is activated in accordance with IPv6.

1 5. The system of claim 1, wherein the particular
2 communication node is allocated the tentative interface
3 address as an allocated interface address if the proxy node
4 determines that the tentative interface address is not
5 allocated to another of said plurality of communication
6 nodes.

1 6. The system of claim 5, wherein the particular
2 communication node begins using the allocated interface
3 address when no response is received to the solicitation
4 message.

1 7. The system of claim 5, wherein the particular
2 communication node begins using the allocated interface
3 address when no response is received after repeating the
4 solicitation message a predetermined number of times.

1 8. The system of claim 5, wherein the proxy node
2 transmits a router advertisement message including network
3 address prefix information.

1 9. The system of claim 8, wherein the transmission of
2 the router advertisement message is performed automatically
3 by the proxy node.

1 10. The system of claim 8, wherein the transmission of
2 the router advertisement message is in response to the
3 receiving, at the proxy node, of a router solicitation
4 message transmitted by the particular communication node.

1 11. The system of claim 8, wherein the particular
2 communication node receives the router advertisement message
3 and determines a full network address associated with the
4 particular communication node from the router advertisement
5 message.

1 12. The system of claim 8, wherein the particular
2 communication node receives the router advertisement
3 message, extracts the network address prefix information
4 from the router advertisement message, and concatenates the
5 network prefix address prefix information and the tentative
6 interface address to form a full network address associated
7 with the particular communication node.

1 13. The system of claim 12, wherein the full network
2 address comprises a site-local address.

1 14. The system of claim 12, wherein the full network
2 address comprises a global address.

1 15. The system of claim 8, wherein the proxy node
2 stores at least a characteristic portion of a full network
3 address in a packet data protocol context associated with
4 the particular communication node.

1 16. The system of claim 1, wherein the tentative
2 interface address comprises a link-local address.

1 17. The system of claim 1, wherein the particular
2 communication node subsequently generates a new tentative
3 interface address and transmits a new solicitation message
4 including the new tentative interface address.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein the proxy node receives the new solicitation message, determines whether the new tentative interface address is allocated to another of said plurality of communication nodes, generates a new response message to the particular node if the proxy node determines that the new tentative interface address is allocated to another of said plurality of communication nodes, and allocates the new tentative interface address as a new allocated interface address if the proxy node determines that the new tentative interface address is not allocated to another of said plurality of communication nodes.

19. The system of claim 17, wherein the proxy node receives the new solicitation message, and transmits a new response message to the particular node if the allocation of an additional interface address associated with the particular node is not allowed.

20. The system of claim 17, wherein the generation of the new tentative interface address is performed in accordance with a stateless IPv6 address autoconfiguration procedure.

21. The system of claim 1, wherein the particular communication node comprises a mobile station.

1 22. The system of claim 1, wherein the particular
2 communication node comprises terminal equipment.

1 23. The system of claim 1, wherein the proxy node
2 comprises a gateway node.

1 24. The system of claim 23, wherein the gateway node
2 comprises a gateway general packet radio service support
3 node (GGSN).

1 25. The system of claim 1, wherein the proxy node
2 comprises a network bridging device for interfacing the
3 plurality of communication nodes to at least one packet data
4 network.

1 26. The system of claim 1, wherein the communication
2 network comprises at least one of a cable modem network, an
3 IMT-2000 network, a CDMA-2000 network, a UMTS network, and a
4 General Packet Radio Service (GPRS) network.

1 27. A method for duplicate address detection in a
2 communication network, said method comprising:
3 generating, by a first one of a plurality of
4 communication nodes, a first tentative interface address;
5 transmitting, from the first communication node, a
6 first solicitation message including the first tentative
7 interface address;
8 receiving, at a proxy node, the first solicitation
9 message;
10 determining, by the proxy node, that the first
11 tentative interface address is available for use by the
12 first communication node;
13 allocating the first tentative interface address as a
14 first allocated interface address associated with the first
15 communication node;
16 generating, by a second one of the plurality of
17 communication nodes, a second tentative interface address;
18 transmitting, from the second communication node, a
19 second solicitation message including the second tentative
20 interface address;
21 receiving, at the proxy node, the second solicitation
22 message;
23 determining, by the proxy node, whether the second
24 tentative interface address corresponds to the first
25 allocated interface address;

generating a first response message if the proxy node determines that the second tentative interface address corresponds to the first allocated interface address; and transmitting the first response message to the second communication node.

28. The method of claim 27, further comprising the steps of:

generating, by the first communication node prior to the step of generating the first tentative interface address, a context activation message, the context activation message indicative of a request for the activation of a packet data protocol context;

transmitting the context activation message from the first communication node to the proxy node; and

generating, at the proxy node, a packet data protocol context associated with the first communication node.

1 29. The method of claim 27, further comprising the
2 steps of:
3 generating, at the proxy node, a router advertisement
4 message, the router advertisement message including network
5 address prefix information;
6 transmitting, from the proxy node, the router
7 advertisement message;
8 receiving, at the first communication node, the router
9 advertisement message; and
10 determining, using the router advertisement message, a
11 full network address associated with the first communication
12 node.

1 30. The method of claim 29, wherein the step of
2 determining the full network address comprises:
3 extracting the network address prefix information from
4 the router advertisement message; and
5 concatenating, by the first communication node, the
6 network address prefix and the first allocated interface
7 address to form the full network address associated with the
8 first communication node.

1 31. The method of claim 29, wherein the step of
2 generating the router advertisement message is in response
3 to the receiving, at the proxy node, of a router
4 solicitation message generated by and transmitted from the
5 first communication node.

1 32. The method of claim 29, wherein the first
2 tentative interface address comprises a tentative interface
3 identifier.

1 33. The method of claim 30, wherein the full network
2 address comprises a site-local address.

1 34. The method of claim 30, wherein the full network
2 address comprises a global address.

1 35. The method of claim 29, wherein the communication
2 network comprises a General Packet Radio Service (GPRS)
3 network and the proxy node comprises a gateway support node,
4 said method further comprising the steps of:

5 storing, by the gateway support node, at least a
6 characteristic portion of a full network address in a packet
7 data protocol context associated with the first
8 communication node;

9 generating, by the gateway support node, a context
10 modification message indicative of the storing of the at
11 least a characteristic portion of the full network address;
12 and

13 transmitting, from the gateway support node to a
14 serving support node, the context modification message.

1 36. The method of claim 27, further comprises the
2 steps of:
3 generating, by the first communication node, a third
4 tentative interface address;
5 transmitting, from the first communication node, a
6 third solicitation message including the third tentative
7 interface address;
8 receiving, at the proxy node, the third solicitation
9 message; and
10 determining, by the proxy node, if the third tentative
11 interface address is allocated to one of the plurality of
12 communication nodes.

1 37. The method of claim 36, further comprising the
2 step of:
3 allocating the third tentative interface address as a
4 second allocated interface address associated with the first
5 communication node if the third tentative interface address
6 is not allocated to one of the plurality of communication
7 nodes.

1 38. The method of claim 36, further comprising the
2 steps of:
3 generating a second response message if the proxy node
4 determines that the third tentative interface address is
5 allocated to one of the plurality of communication nodes;
6 transmitting the second response message to the first
7 communication node;
8 receiving, at the first communication node, the second
9 response message; and
10 transmitting, from the first communication node, a
11 third solicitation message including a fourth tentative
12 interface address in response to the second response
13 message.

1 39. The method of claim 38, further comprising the
2 step of allocating the third tentative interface address as
3 a third allocated interface address if the proxy node
4 determines that the fourth tentative interface address is
5 not allocated to one of the plurality of communication
6 nodes.

1 40. The method of claim 36, further comprising the
2 steps of:
3 generating a second response message if the allocation
4 of an additional interface address associated with the first
5 communication node is not allowed; and
6 transmitting the second response message to the first
7 communication node.

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1 41. A proxy node for duplicate address detection in a
2 communication network, said proxy node comprising:
3 an input interface for receiving a solicitation message
4 including a tentative interface address, the tentative
5 interface address being associated with a particular one of
6 a plurality of communication nodes;
7 a processor operable to determine from the received
8 solicitation message, and using obtained information
9 relating to interface addresses that are currently allocated
10 to the plurality of communication nodes, whether the
11 tentative interface address is allocated to another of the
12 plurality of communication nodes, and generate a response
13 message if the processor determines that the tentative
14 interface address is allocated to another of said plurality
15 of communication nodes; and
16 an output interface in communication with said
17 processor, for transmitting said response message to the
18 particular communication node.

1 42. The proxy node of claim 41, the proxy node further
2 comprising means for storing the information relating to
3 interface addresses that are currently allocated to the
4 plurality of communication nodes in a memory associated with
5 the proxy node.

1 43. The proxy node of claim 41, the proxy node further
2 comprising means for retrieving the information relating to
3 interface addresses that are currently allocated to the
4 plurality of communication nodes from a support node.

1 44. The proxy node of claim 43, wherein the support
2 node comprises a gateway general packet radio service
3 support node (GGSN).

1 45. The proxy node of claim 41, wherein the processor
2 is further operable to receive a context activation message
3 indicative of a request from the particular communication
4 node for the activation of a packet data protocol context,
5 and generate a packet data protocol context associated with
6 the particular communication node.

1 46. The proxy node of claim 41, wherein the processor
2 is further operable to transmit a router advertisement
3 message, the router advertisement message including network
4 address prefix information.

1 47. The proxy node of claim 46, wherein the
2 transmitting of the router advertisement message is in
3 response to a reception of a router solicitation message
4 transmitted from the particular communication node.

1 48. The proxy node of claim 41, wherein the processor
2 is further operable to store at least a characteristic
3 portion of a full network address in a packet data protocol
4 context associated with the particular communication node.

1 49. The proxy node of claim 48, wherein the processor
2 is further operable to transmit a context modification
3 message indicative of the storing of the at least a
4 characteristic portion of the full network address.

1 50. The proxy node of claim 41, wherein the particular
2 communication node comprises a mobile station.

1 51. The proxy node of claim 41, wherein the proxy node
2 comprises a gateway node.

1 52. The proxy node of claim 51, wherein the gateway
2 node comprises a gateway general packet radio service
3 support node (GGSN).

1 53. The proxy node of claim 41, wherein the proxy node
2 comprises a network bridging device interfacing the
3 plurality of communication nodes to at least one packet data
4 network.

1 54. The proxy node of claim 41, wherein the
2 communication network comprises at least one of a cable
3 modem network, an IMT-2000 network, a CDMA-2000 network, a
4 UMTS network, and a General Packet Radio Service (GPRS)
5 network

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1 55. A method for duplicate address detection in a
2 communication network, said method comprising:
3 receiving, by a proxy node, a solicitation message
4 including a tentative interface address, the tentative
5 interface address being associated with a particular one of
6 a plurality of communication nodes;
7 determining, from the solicitation message, whether the
8 tentative interface address is allocated to another of said
9 plurality of communication nodes; and
10 sending a response message to said particular
11 communication node if, in said determining step, the proxy
12 node determines that the tentative interface address is
13 allocated to another of said plurality of communication
14 nodes.

1 56. The method of claim 55, further comprising the
2 steps of:
3 receiving, from the particular communication node, a
4 context activation message indicative of a request from the
5 particular communication node for the activation of a packet
6 data protocol context; and
7 generating a packet data protocol context associated
8 with the particular communication node.

1 57. The method of claim 55, further comprising the
2 steps of:
3 generating a router advertisement message, the router
4 advertisement message including network prefix information;
5 and
6 transmitting the router advertisement message.

1 58. The method of claim 57, wherein the step of
2 generating the router advertisement message is in response
3 to a reception of a router solicitation message from the
4 particular communication node.

1 59. The method of claim 55, further comprising the
2 step of:
3 storing at least a characteristic portion of a full
4 network address in a packet data protocol context associated
5 with the particular communication node.

1 60. The method of claim 59, further comprising the
2 step of:
3 transmitting a context modification message indicative
4 of the storing of the at least a characteristic portion of
5 the full network address.

1 61. A computer readable medium, the computer readable
2 medium storing software instructions, the software
3 instructions operable, when executed by a processor, to:

4 receive, by a proxy node, a solicitation message
5 including a tentative interface address, the tentative
6 interface address being associated with a particular one of
7 a plurality of communication nodes;

8 determine, from the solicitation message, whether the
9 tentative interface address is allocated to another of said
10 plurality of communication nodes; and

11 send a response message to said particular
12 communication node if the proxy node determines that the
13 tentative interface address is allocated to another of said
14 plurality of communication nodes.

1 62. The computer readable medium of claim 61, the
2 software instructions further operable, when executed by a
3 processor, to:

4 receive, from the particular communication node, a
5 context activation message indicative of a request from the
6 particular communication node for the activation of a packet
7 data protocol context; and

8 generate a packet data protocol context associated with
9 the particular communication node.

1 63. The computer readable medium of claim 61, the
2 software instructions further operable, when executed by a
3 processor, to:

4 generate a router advertisement message, the router
5 advertisement message including network prefix information;
6 and

7 transmit the router advertisement message.

1 64. The computer readable medium of claim 63, wherein
2 the generating the router advertisement message is in
3 response to a reception of a router solicitation message
4 from the particular communication node.

1 65. The computer readable medium of claim 61, the
2 software instructions further operable, when executed by a
3 processor, to:

4 store at least a characteristic portion of a full
5 network address in a packet data protocol context associated
6 with the particular communication node.

1 66. The computer readable medium of claim 65, the
2 software instructions further operable, when executed by a
3 processor, to:

4 transmit a context modification message indicative of
5 the storing of the at least a characteristic portion of the
6 full network address.

1 67. The computer readable medium of claim 66, the
2 software instructions further operable, when executed by a
3 processor, to:
4 transmit a context modification message indicative of
5 the storing of the at least a characteristic portion of the
6 full network address.

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